to la)Bt three years outstanding advances of all scheduled commercial banks for these two categories is indicated below:—

(Amount in lak'is)
(Amou:t Rs. crores)

As on last Friday of	Small Scale Industries		Artisans Cottag & Village Industries	
	A/cs.	Amount	A/cs.	Amount
December, 1982	10.5	4464.32	4.4	109.85
December, 1983	12.4	5389.37	6.4	167.23
December, 1984	14.5	6537.18	8.4	241.05

Aluminium pipe Manufacturing Method

@3004. SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state: •

(a) whether it is a fact that there are many aluminium pipe manufacturers for use in sprinkler irrigation systems by extrusion method, whereas there is only one aluminium tube manufacturer by welding (ERW) method;

(b) whether it is also a fact that quality of extruded tube, being seamless, is superior to welded aluminium! pipe for purposes of sprinkler irrigation since Indian Standards Institution has framed two specifications; and

(c) if answer to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, why the Central Government is not issuing licences for manufacture of aluminium pipes by welding method which is much cheaper than extrusion method to eliminate monopoly and encourage healthy competition?

(TPreviously Unstarred Question 2685, transferred from the 16th December, 1985.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Recently Government have liberalised the licensing policy in respect of aluminium extrusions, rolled products powders and alloys in the secondary sector. A letter of intent has been given to one more unit on 22-11-1985 for manufacture of ERW aluminium pipes.

Packaging Industry

@@30O4. D. SHRI DHULESH WAR MEENA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a nodal agency for the development of packaging industry is likely to be set up soon;

(b) if so, what are the broad outlines of the project; and

(c) the steps being taken to see that the packaging industry grows upto the international standards?

1 I @@Previosuly Unstarrde Question 2686, transferred from the 16th December, 1985.